

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202716 TOSEC 090133
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 H-01 ISO-00 EA-10 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-15
/041 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP: DLSCHIELE:ST
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
H:ASCHNEE
EA/PRCM:JSROY

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O 250042Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR HABIB AND TARNOFF FROM MAYNES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UN, RQ

SUBJECT: PRC POSITION ON PUERTO RICO IN UN
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

1. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IF THE UN DECOLONIZATION
COMMITTEE ASSERTS ITS JURISDICTION OVER PUERTO RICO
THIS YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT LOSE SOME CONGRESSIONAL
SUPPORT ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. WE ARE PUSHING
FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF A CONSENSUS STATEMENT WHICH
WOULD RENDER UNNECESSARY A VOTE ON A CUBAN RESOLUTION
DECLARING PUERTO RICO A COLONY. IF THIS FAILS WE EXPECT
A VERY CLOSE VOTE ON A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE
DELIBERATIONS WITHOUT VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION. A
SIMILAR MOTION WAS APPROVED 11-9-2 IN 1975, WITH CHINA
NOT PARTICIPATING, BUT OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT
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CHINA WOULD NOW OPPOSE SUCH A MOTION. ATTACHED IS A COPY
OF THE PAPER ON THE PRC POSITION WHICH WAS INCLUDED
IN BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR YOUR TRIP. ANDY IS ALREADY
WORKING ON THIS SUBJECT IN LAGOS UWITH C-24 CHAIRMAN
SALIM.

2. I URGE THAT YOU RAISE WITH THE SECRETARY THE
POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING WITH THE CHINESE THE QUESTION

OF THEIR POSITION ON PUERTO RICO WITHIN THE UN
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE AND URGING THEM TO ABSTAIN

OR NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY VOTE ON THE MATTER.

3. TEXT OF BRIEFING MEMORANDUM ON THIS
SUBJECT FOLLOWS:

TO: THE SECRETARY

FROM: IO - CHARLES WILLIAM MAYNES

PRC ROLE IN UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

THE UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE OF 24), OF
WHICH CHINA IS A MEMBER, IS NOW CONSIDERING PUERTO RICO.
WE ARE PUSHING FOR A CONSENSUS WHICH WOULD DEFER A
COMMITTEE VOTE ON A RESOLUTION UNTIL NEXT YEAR, BUT
CUBA HAS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD PLACE
THE TERRITORY ON THE COMMITTEE'S LIST OF COLONIAL AREAS.
THE COMMITTEE HAS RECESSED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1.

CHINA APPEARS TO HAVE SHIFTED FROM THE NEUTRAL POSTURE
IT HAS MAINTAINED IN THE PAST, AND OUR BEST ESTIMATE
IS THAT CHINA NOW SUPPORTS EARLY APPROVAL OF A
RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THAT INTRODUCED BY CUBA.
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IF EFFORTS TO AVOID A VOTE ON THE CUBAN RESOLUTION
THROUGH A CONSENSUS AGREEMENT FAIL, WE EXPECT A MOTION
TO ADJOURN THE COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS WITHOUT A
VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION. WE HOPE CHINA WILL ABSTAIN
OR NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE ON SUCH A MOTION.
CHINA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN A VOTE ON A SIMILAR
MOTION IN 1975.

POINTS TO BE MADE

- THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO IS NOT PROPERLY A
MATTER WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE UN DECOLONIZATION
COMMITTEE.
- WE WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER STATUS THE PEOPLE OF
PUERTO RICO WISH.
- WE HOPE CHINA WILL NOT SUPPORT APPROVAL OF A
RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO.

CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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